

## CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT	I
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	II
LIST OF TABLES	III
LIST OF FIGURES	V
SYMBOLS AND NOTATION	VIII

### CHAPTER ONE

#### INTRODUCTION

1.1 General	1
1.2 Problem Definition	4
1.3 Objectives of the Study	6
1.3.1 General objectives	6
1.3.2 Specific objectives	6
1.4 Methodology	7
1.5 Dissertations Out Lines	8

### CHAPETER TWO

#### BACKGROUND AND LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Water Flow in the Unsaturated Zone	10
2.1.1 Soil Water Potential	10
2.1.2 Soil Water Characteristics Curves	11
2.1.3 Water Flow Equation in the Unsaturated Zone	11
2.1.4 Models of Water Flow in the Unsaturated Zone	13
2.2 Modeling of Soil-Water Characteristics Curves	15
2.3 Flow of Water in Cracked Soil	25
2.3.1 Shrinkage of Heavy Clay Soil	26
2.3.2 Volume Change of Heavy Soil	27
2.3.3 Shrinkage Geometry of Heavy Clay Soil	28
2.3.4 Soil Cracks	29
2.3.4.1 Characteristics of cracks	30
2.3.4.2 Impacts of soil cracking on irrigation-drainage system	31
2.3.4.3 The effect of cracking process on infiltration	31
2.3.5 Modeling Water Movement in Cracked Soils	32
2.3.6 Spatial and Temporal Characteristics of the Macropore Network	37
2.3.6.1 Relationship between water content changes and soil volume change	38

	Page
2.3.7 Spatial distribution and connectivity	41
2.3.7.1 Cracks surface area	42
2.3.8 Initiation of Flows in the Macropores	43
2.3.9 Nature of Flows in the Macropore System	45
2.3.10 Flow in the Matrix Domain	47
2.3.11 Interaction between the Macropore and Matrix Domains	50

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

3.1 Materials	59
3.1.1 Study area site I	59
3.1.2 Soil profile at experimental site I	59
3.1.3 Experimental design site I	60
3.1.4 Study area site II	61
3.1.5 Soil profile at experimental site II	61
3.1.6 Experimental design site II	62
3.2 Methods	64
3.2.1 Laboratory works	64
3.2.1.1 The experimental physical model design	64
3.2.1.2 Measurement of cracks porosity	65
3.2.1.3 Measurement of the soil physical properties	67
3.2.2 Field Work	71
3.2.2.1 Measurement of soil moisture suction	71
3.2.2.2 Delmhorst soil moisture measurement system	72
3.2.2.3 Measurement of the cracks pattern	74
3.2.2.4 The infiltration rate	75

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **ANALYTICAL APPROACH BASED ON GREEN-AMPT CONCEPT**

4.1 Introduction	76
4.2 Green- Ampt Model	76
4.2.1 Basic Concept	76
4.3 Modification Green-Ampt Model for Horizontal Infiltration	80
4.3.1 Derivation of the Analytical Model	80
4.3.1.1 Basic principal	80
4.3.1.2 Model assumptions	80
4.3.1.3 Model derivation proposal I	80
4.3.1.4 Model derivation proposal II	83
4.3.1.4.1 Correction factor for crack width	86

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **MATHEMATICAL MODEL**

	Page
5.1 Numerical Solution of Flow Equation	87
5.1.1 Reformulation Richards's equation for cracked soils	87
5.2 Finite Difference Grids Time Space	88
5.3 Finite Difference Approximation for Flow Equation	90
5.4 Numerical Implementation of the Boundary Condition	94
5.4.1 Boundary condition at the soil surface	94
5.4.2 Boundary condition at the bottom of soil column	96
5.4.3 Approximation of the differential moisture capacity	99

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

6.1 Investigation of the soil physical properties	101
6.2 Investigation of the Cracks Characteristics	108
6.3 Shrinkage Curves of Study Sites	112
6.3.1 Shrinkage characteristics	116
6.4 Development of Empirical Models	117
6.5 Quantifying the Flow Process in Cracked Soils	130
6.6 Laboratory Estimator for Cracks Porosity	134
6.7 Analytical Model	142
6.7.1 The modified Green-Ampt Model for horizontal infiltration proposal I	143
6.7.2 The modified Green-Ampt Model for horizontal infiltration proposal II	147
6.7.3 Model Constraints	150
6.8 Mathematical Model	151

## **CHAPTER SEVEN**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMONDATION**

7.1 Summary	165
7.2 Conclusions and Recommendation	169
7.3 Recommendation for Further Studies	174